

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 9, 2005

KUZMAN HAS SUCCESSFUL 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

INDIANAPOLIS – Even though he was not a member of the majority controlling the Indiana House, State Rep. Bob Kuzman (D-Crown Point) still had a remarkably successful 2005 legislative session, as he played a prominent role in the passage of nearly 20 measures that are on the verge of becoming state law.

"Even when I served in the House majority, I understood that it was important for Republicans and Democrats to work together to pass substantive legislation that will benefit all the people of Indiana," Kuzman said. "I have been fortunate this session to have worked with Republican lawmakers who have shared those sentiments, and we have been able to join forces to work on behalf of everyone in this state."

Kuzman's bills in 2005 covered a variety of subjects. For example, SEA 422 establishes requirements for adoption procedures to make it more secure for adoptive parents.

"Adoption is a very complicated, emotional process, and need to do everything we can to minimize uncertainties and protect the best interests of the people who are involved," Kuzman said.

Another measure that has been signed into law will enable Indiana taxpayers to save money on public works projects. SEA 244 enables state-regulated agencies to enter into design-build contracts, which enable a single firm to handle both design and construction on a project. Kuzman describes the contracts as an effective way to reduce the costs on large-scale building projects.

In an effort to help the families of Indiana National Guard members who are killed while on active duty, Kuzman co-sponsored legislation (SEA 304) that will exempt spouses and children from payment of tuition and mandatory fees at a state educational institution.

Several Kuzman proposals involve judicial proceedings. HEA 1113 creates a fund to handle the collection, shipment, analysis and preservation of DNA samples. HEA 1501 enables the Indiana Attorney General to take stronger action against companies that violate the state's no call telemarketing list. SEA 95 maintains the state's Sentencing Policy Study Committee, while SEAs 96, 98 and 101 provide judges with more latitude in both sentencing and probation.

SEA 363 will provide salary increases for full-time judges and prosecutors in Indiana, while SEA 88 specifies benefits for retired judges who return to service on special cases.

Finally, Kuzman also helped oversee passage of HEA 1153, which makes a series of changes to state laws involving probate, trust and inheritance matters, and HEAs 1288 and 1398 and SEA 209, all of which make technical corrections to language in existing laws. SEA 196 sets guidelines for participants in a boxing or sparring match, and SEA 453 amends laws covering damage waivers in rental car agreements.

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